

STAMBULOFF FORETOLD IT.

IN APRIL HE DECLARED THAT HIS DOOM WAS AT HAND.

He Knew the Names of His Assassins, the Details of Their Plot, and the Support Which They Were Receiving from the Pernicious Coburger The Combination Was Too Strong to Fail, He Said. The Remarkable Interview in Which Bulgarian Iron Man Predicted and Explained His Own Death Now Clearly Proved That Stambuloff Kept His Peace in Sofia.

The swiftness of the European press to charge Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria with instigating the assassination of Stephen Stambuloff was unexpected until the arrival of Saturday's mail from the Continent. All the German and Austrian newspapers of yesterday contain a remarkable interview given by Stambuloff last April, revealing the triple fate that was awaiting him. In this interview Stambuloff foretold his death, named the man who would assassinate him, indicated clearly the criminal neglect of the police, and laid the blame at the door of the Coburg Prince.

This interview was given to an editor of the *Coburg Gazette*, and was sent by him from Sofia to his office, who in a moment of excessive carelessness placed the manuscript in a portfolio where it remained until the news of the assassination was flashed through Europe. Then, after two days' deliberation, the editor of the *Gazette* published the great Bulgarian's forecast of his own end. The matter has more than passing interest, for, as the *Vienna New-York Press* says, the names in Sofia show a flame of fire far up from the European horizon and has given rise already to hasty agreements of the powers to meet an expected crisis in the east.

"It is well that you have come to me at this time," said Stambuloff on the April afternoon when the young editor entered his study. "I was thinking of requesting you to call on me to-day, but I have a few important things to say to you, so first read this telegram of congratulation that I am going to send Bismarck and Prussia." The telegram said that a kind Providence had allowed Bismarck to see the completion of his great work and to approach the evening of life with the happy consciousness that this work was growing stronger daily.

"To me," said Stambuloff, "Providence has been so kind."

"How is that? Your work is almost complete, even though it may be left to others to crown it. The foundations, the walls, and even the roof are in place, and your successors have little to do except boast the flag."

"Ah, yes. Well, if I do make speeches about Macedonia, I don't mean anything; but you see I do speak very, very nicely, and I haven't many chances of making speeches, and it amuses the people!"

"Such, I verily believe, is no unjust exposition of Prince Ferdinand's view of statescraft, and even in my ignorance I turned away with a heavy, doubtful heart. And it was to Stambuloff I turned, and began an acquaintance which, brief, was intimate and interesting almost beyond any I have known. A friendship which makes my blood boil with rage as I write, at the thought of that maimed, maimed, blinded, brutalized giant agonizing to-day at Sofia."

FERNANDO TO RETURN TO SOFIA.

He Expects to Be Killed, but His Mother Is Determined.

BERLIN, July 28.—Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria has left Carlsbad and joined his mother and his wife at Coburg, ostensibly to assist in the ceremonies in memory of his father, who died on July 26, 1881. Prince August of Saxe-Coburg and other members of the Coburg and Bourbon-Oriens families joined the group on Friday. The meeting was, in fact, a family consultation upon the question of Ferdinand's return from the Bulgarian throne in favor of his son, Boris, who is now a year and a half old. Prince Clementine, Ferdinand's mother, whose money and pluck have backed her son in his acquirement and retention of the throne, wants him to remain in Sofia at any risk, and apparently her counsel was heeded. According to telegrams from Coburg, Prince Ferdinand will return to Carlsbad to complete his course of treatment, after which he will go to Vienna and later to Schwarzenau to join his wife and son, passing a few days with them before starting for Sofia. Princess Marie Louise, with young Prince Boris, will remain at Schwarzenau until Ferdinand thinks it safe for them to go to Bulgaria. Careless gossip has it that Ferdinand is very despondent, and tells his intimates that he feels certain he will die an early and violent death.

In regard to his health condition of Prince Ferdinand the *Pester Lloyd*, the Hungarian official organ, declares explicitly that such a diagnosis on the part of Russia would be no possibility to give him a status with the other Powers.

A correspondent suggested that the ex-Premier had been made nervous by the solicitude of his friends, and that the rumors of plots had been current ever since his fall. "You think that nothing will happen because nothing has happened, but that is poor logic. This time the combination is too strong, and I can not but believe that serious trouble is ahead. Everything taken into account, but I learn from my friends that things are now about ripe for action. However, when I fall my friends will not be granted my enemies. If peaceful quarters cars will be taken that after my death telegrams from all parts of Bulgaria will express relief at the taking off of the 'tyrant' and 'blood sucker' and 'liberator'."

The correspondent was skeptical. How could Stambuloff be assassinated, if the whole plot against him was already known and ready to be unfolded to the police?

"That is the true European! You people can live among us Bulgarians ten, twenty, or thirty years without understanding that we are a savage people, with all a savage people's good and bad qualities. When, in 1878, we planned our first revolt against Turkey, all Bulgaria knew of it. Only the Turks remained in blissful ignorance until the day when we cut off a dozen Turkish heads. When the attack, which resulted in Beltsch's death, was to be made on me, thousands were informed of it in advance. The Chief of Police and his men, however, were trustful and tranquil. To-day many know of my approaching assassination, and my friends and God be praised that I still have them—keener than the Turks or the police were. I give you no names, but my information is correct. The former Chief of Police, high liaison, a man of honor, devoted to me and still possessing the best sources of information, came to me two days ago. He was in a frenzy of excitement, this man who usually is so stern and so calm. He wished to go to the Prince and tell him all. 'Hia,' I said to him, 'that would be the greatest act of stupidity you could commit. Do you not understand that these men have a strong and powerful backing in their supporters?'

"We know perfectly well that in the suburb of Uchelman a band has assembled which goes through streets in the use of arms. This is nominally for Macedonia, and the Government, which does not know its own mind, puts up with it. But we know that the members, among whom are M. Beltsch's murderers, have sworn to assassinate me in revenge for Pandits and the four men executed after the Beltsch trial. Prince Ferdinand's name is on the same list, but of course that is a preposterous ruse. The band of assassins of which I speak consists of Rasareff, Haloff, Arnaut, Tufekchieff, and some others. Tufekchieff was sentenced in Constantinople to fifteen years' imprisonment for killing Dr. Vukovitch, the Bulgarian agent in Constantinople who was murdered in the street by the hired assassins of Russia, but he rooms about unmolested here, and has even received a post on the railway ways. The Turkish commissary demanded his extradition, but Natchovitch promised not to insist upon this, as it would raise bad blood between Bulgaria and Turkey, and would set the Macedonian agitation alight. Natchovitch promised that he should be arrested and imprisoned here, but he is absolutely free. For years past people have been at work here with the revolver and the dagger, and we have grown accustomed to it as one grows accustomed to bloodshed in war. Now we have civil war, in which the Government only infamies, while formerly we were pitiless in dealing with the guilty alone. Those of the offenders who escape are now high up."

"And now, what do you think? After getting yesterday and the day before the most minute details of this plot to murder me, I receive Tufekchieff's card-to-call, and am told that he has the door to see me. Think of it! Tufekchieff, who accuses me of torturing his brother to death in prison! To my porter's questions this man replied that he wished to see me to accomplish a reconciliation for the sake of Macedonia. His efforts to get this mask, now, without doubt, shows me that the time of the assassination is near at hand."

"Today I shall put upon paper all the details of the plot, some of which will be delivered to you and to all the diplomatic agents of the powers. On each envelope will be the words, 'Not to be opened until after my death.' This word shall teach how faithful service is to be rendered to Bulgaria."

Stambuloff, foretold of the completion and execution of the plot to kill him, shied a flood of light on all the details of the state tragedy at Sofia. It shows clearly why weeks Stambuloff's friends and family had begged Prince Ferdinand to let Stambuloff have the scene of the plot for Carlsbad, why Prince Ferdinand steadfastly declined to grant this apparently small favor, and why, when Stambuloff lay senseless and unconscious where he fell under the assassin's blows, the Sofia police not only let the assassin escape, but even cut down those who

tried to pursue him. It shows also why Prince Stambuloff refused to receive Prince Ferdinand's messages of condolence and turned his chamberlain from her door. Without Stambuloff's references to the "powerful backing" of the plotters it is difficult to understand why, immediately after the assassination the Bulgarian gendarmes, omitting all pretense of looking for the fugitives, crowded to the house of the sinking man to arrest his friends and maltreat his servants until driven out by the fierce denunciations of Stambuloff's wife.

The calibre of the Prince, who is thus convicted out of the dead man's mouth, was given a week ago by a Continental correspondent of the *Post-Mill Gazette*, the last person to interview him before the assassination. The correspondent said:

"Prince Ferdinand's views of policy, as far as I could gather them, are something of the following order, and I trust that no seeming deviation of his statesmanship will be fallen as amiss, and but most freely and grateful feeling toward the man himself."

"Stambuloff . . . He may be a very clever man, but he may have more, Prince. But he bullied me and wouldn't let me do what I liked. He abused Russia like a pickpocket, and he will use my pictures as a shield. If he abuses Russia I won't recognize, and although it's true that it doesn't matter a snap to Bulgaria whether I'm recognized or not, still, if I'm not recognized the foreign Ministers won't wear their orders when they come to dinner with me. Stambuloff says I ought to make friends with Turkey. Bother Turkey! She's deserted before Europe, and the Czar is Czar. Besides, Stambuloff's so rude, and I don't believe myself he's at all nice and moral. No; I'll get a fool or two like Stoffell and a Rouspoli or two like Zankoff, and send wreaths to Petersburg, and be received in Vienna, and live happily ever after. Macedonia? Ay, yes. Well, if I do make speeches about Macedonia, I don't mean anything; but you see I do speak very, very nicely, and I haven't many chances of making speeches, and it amuses the people!"

"Such, I verily believe, is no unjust exposition of Prince Ferdinand's view of statescraft, and even in my ignorance I turned away with a heavy, doubtful heart. And it was to Stambuloff I turned, and began an acquaintance which, brief, was intimate and interesting almost beyond any I have known. A friendship which makes my blood boil with rage as I write, at the thought of that maimed, maimed, blinded, brutalized giant agonizing to-day at Sofia."

"It is well that you have come to me at this time," said Stambuloff on the April afternoon when the young editor entered his study. "I was thinking of requesting you to call on me to-day, but I have a few important things to say to you, so first read this telegram of congratulation that I am going to send Bismarck and Prussia."

The telegram said that a kind Providence had allowed Bismarck to see the completion of his great work and to approach the evening of life with the happy consciousness that this work was growing stronger daily.

"To me," said Stambuloff, "Providence has been so kind."

"How is that? Your work is almost complete, even though it may be left to others to crown it. The foundations, the walls, and even the roof are in place, and your successors have little to do except boast the flag."

"Ah, yes. Well, if I do make speeches about Macedonia, I don't mean anything; but you see I do speak very, very nicely, and I haven't many chances of making speeches, and it amuses the people!"

"Such, I verily believe, is no unjust exposition of Prince Ferdinand's view of statescraft, and even in my ignorance I turned away with a heavy, doubtful heart. And it was to Stambuloff I turned, and began an acquaintance which, brief, was intimate and interesting almost beyond any I have known. A friendship which makes my blood boil with rage as I write, at the thought of that maimed, maimed, blinded, brutalized giant agonizing to-day at Sofia."

"It is well that you have come to me at this time," said Stambuloff on the April afternoon when the young editor entered his study. "I was thinking of requesting you to call on me to-day, but I have a few important things to say to you, so first read this telegram of congratulation that I am going to send Bismarck and Prussia."

The telegram said that a kind Providence had allowed Bismarck to see the completion of his great work and to approach the evening of life with the happy consciousness that this work was growing stronger daily.

"To me," said Stambuloff, "Providence has been so kind."

"How is that? Your work is almost complete, even though it may be left to others to crown it. The foundations, the walls, and even the roof are in place, and your successors have little to do except boast the flag."

"Ah, yes. Well, if I do make speeches about Macedonia, I don't mean anything; but you see I do speak very, very nicely, and I haven't many chances of making speeches, and it amuses the people!"

"Such, I verily believe, is no unjust exposition of Prince Ferdinand's view of statescraft, and even in my ignorance I turned away with a heavy, doubtful heart. And it was to Stambuloff I turned, and began an acquaintance which, brief, was intimate and interesting almost beyond any I have known. A friendship which makes my blood boil with rage as I write, at the thought of that maimed, maimed, blinded, brutalized giant agonizing to-day at Sofia."

"It is well that you have come to me at this time," said Stambuloff on the April afternoon when the young editor entered his study. "I was thinking of requesting you to call on me to-day, but I have a few important things to say to you, so first read this telegram of congratulation that I am going to send Bismarck and Prussia."

The telegram said that a kind Providence had allowed Bismarck to see the completion of his great work and to approach the evening of life with the happy consciousness that this work was growing stronger daily.

"To me," said Stambuloff, "Providence has been so kind."

"How is that? Your work is almost complete, even though it may be left to others to crown it. The foundations, the walls, and even the roof are in place, and your successors have little to do except boast the flag."

"Ah, yes. Well, if I do make speeches about Macedonia, I don't mean anything; but you see I do speak very, very nicely, and I haven't many chances of making speeches, and it amuses the people!"

"Such, I verily believe, is no unjust exposition of Prince Ferdinand's view of statescraft, and even in my ignorance I turned away with a heavy, doubtful heart. And it was to Stambuloff I turned, and began an acquaintance which, brief, was intimate and interesting almost beyond any I have known. A friendship which makes my blood boil with rage as I write, at the thought of that maimed, maimed, blinded, brutalized giant agonizing to-day at Sofia."

"It is well that you have come to me at this time," said Stambuloff on the April afternoon when the young editor entered his study. "I was thinking of requesting you to call on me to-day, but I have a few important things to say to you, so first read this telegram of congratulation that I am going to send Bismarck and Prussia."

The telegram said that a kind Providence had allowed Bismarck to see the completion of his great work and to approach the evening of life with the happy consciousness that this work was growing stronger daily.

"To me," said Stambuloff, "Providence has been so kind."

"How is that? Your work is almost complete, even though it may be left to others to crown it. The foundations, the walls, and even the roof are in place, and your successors have little to do except boast the flag."

"Ah, yes. Well, if I do make speeches about Macedonia, I don't mean anything; but you see I do speak very, very nicely, and I haven't many chances of making speeches, and it amuses the people!"

"Such, I verily believe, is no unjust exposition of Prince Ferdinand's view of statescraft, and even in my ignorance I turned away with a heavy, doubtful heart. And it was to Stambuloff I turned, and began an acquaintance which, brief, was intimate and interesting almost beyond any I have known. A friendship which makes my blood boil with rage as I write, at the thought of that maimed, maimed, blinded, brutalized giant agonizing to-day at Sofia."

"It is well that you have come to me at this time," said Stambuloff on the April afternoon when the young editor entered his study. "I was thinking of requesting you to call on me to-day, but I have a few important things to say to you, so first read this telegram of congratulation that I am going to send Bismarck and Prussia."

The telegram said that a kind Providence had allowed Bismarck to see the completion of his great work and to approach the evening of life with the happy consciousness that this work was growing stronger daily.

"To me," said Stambuloff, "Providence has been so kind."

"How is that? Your work is almost complete, even though it may be left to others to crown it. The foundations, the walls, and even the roof are in place, and your successors have little to do except boast the flag."

"Ah, yes. Well, if I do make speeches about Macedonia, I don't mean anything; but you see I do speak very, very nicely, and I haven't many chances of making speeches, and it amuses the people!"

"Such, I verily believe, is no unjust exposition of Prince Ferdinand's view of statescraft, and even in my ignorance I turned away with a heavy, doubtful heart. And it was to Stambuloff I turned, and began an acquaintance which, brief, was intimate and interesting almost beyond any I have known. A friendship which makes my blood boil with rage as I write, at the thought of that maimed, maimed, blinded, brutalized giant agonizing to-day at Sofia."

"It is well that you have come to me at this time," said Stambuloff on the April afternoon when the young editor entered his study. "I was thinking of requesting you to call on me to-day, but I have a few important things to say to you, so first read this telegram of congratulation that I am going to send Bismarck and Prussia."

The telegram said that a kind Providence had allowed Bismarck to see the completion of his great work and to approach the evening of life with the happy consciousness that this work was growing stronger daily.

"To me," said Stambuloff, "Providence has been so kind."

"How is that? Your work is almost complete, even though it may be left to others to crown it. The foundations, the walls, and even the roof are in place, and your successors have little to do except boast the flag."

"Ah, yes. Well, if I do make speeches about Macedonia, I don't mean anything; but you see I do speak very, very nicely, and I haven't many chances of making speeches, and it amuses the people!"

"Such, I verily believe, is no unjust exposition of Prince Ferdinand's view of statescraft, and even in my ignorance I turned away with a heavy, doubtful heart. And it was to Stambuloff I turned, and began an acquaintance which, brief, was intimate and interesting almost beyond any I have known. A friendship which makes my blood boil with rage as I write, at the thought of that maimed, maimed, blinded, brutalized giant agonizing to-day at Sofia."

"It is well that you have come to me at this time," said Stambuloff on the April afternoon when the young editor entered his study. "I was thinking of requesting you to call on me to-day, but I have a few important things to say to you, so first read this telegram of congratulation that I am going to send Bismarck and Prussia."

The telegram said that a kind Providence had allowed Bismarck to see the completion of his great work and to approach the evening of life with the happy consciousness that this work was growing stronger daily.

"To me," said Stambuloff, "Providence has been so kind."

"How is that? Your work is almost complete, even though it may be left to others to crown it. The foundations, the walls, and even the roof are in place, and your successors have little to do except boast the flag."

"Ah, yes. Well, if I do make speeches about Macedonia, I don't mean anything; but you see I do speak very, very nicely, and I haven't many chances of making speeches, and it amuses the people!"

"Such, I verily believe, is no unjust exposition of Prince Ferdinand's view of statescraft, and even in my ignorance I turned away with a heavy, doubtful heart. And it was to Stambuloff I turned, and began an acquaintance which, brief, was intimate and interesting almost beyond any I have known. A friendship which makes my blood boil with rage as I write, at the thought of that maimed, maimed, blinded, brutalized giant agonizing to-day at Sofia."

"It is well that you have come to me at this time," said Stambuloff on the April afternoon when the young editor entered his study. "I was thinking of requesting you to call on me to-day, but I have a few important things to say to you, so first read this telegram of congratulation that I am going to send Bismarck and Prussia."

The telegram said that a kind Providence had allowed Bismarck to see the completion of his great work and to approach the evening of life with the happy consciousness that this work was growing stronger daily.

"To me," said Stambuloff, "Providence has been so kind."

"How is that? Your work is almost complete, even though it may be left to others to crown it. The foundations, the walls, and even the roof are in place, and your successors have little to do except boast the flag."

"Ah, yes. Well, if I do make speeches about Macedonia, I don't mean anything; but you see I do speak very, very nicely, and I haven't many chances of making speeches, and it amuses the people!"